

# How to Play Hallway Bingo

## *A Quick-Start Guide for Resident Care*

### Introduction

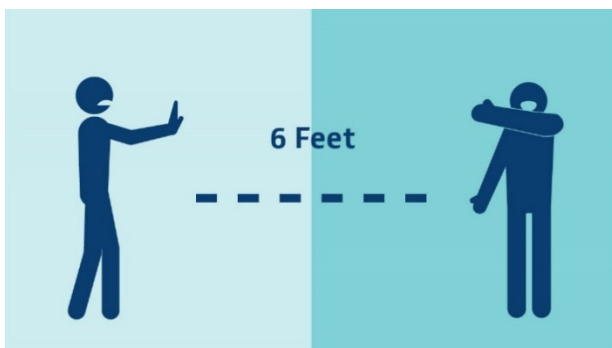
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During the current pandemic crisis, it may become necessary to utilize alternative activities for the mental and social health of residents. It is of vital importance to follow the current hygiene and social distancing protocols and we have adapted a version of the ever-popular Bingo to fit our current needs.

At Johnson Christian Village, our residents are used to playing bingo twice a week, for at least an hour a day. We aim to maintain this by playing “Hallway Bingo” with each of our halls twice a week, for one hour a day. This allows our residents to play bingo for the same amount of time before quarantine. Similar time slots may be adjusted depending on the facility’s schedule.

### Safety and Precautions

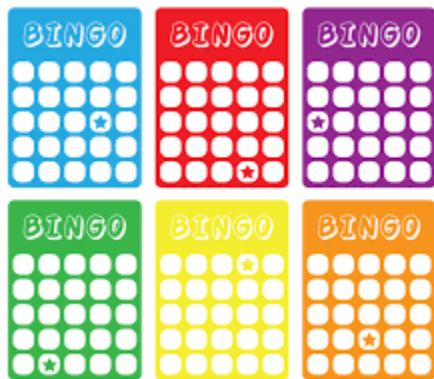
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It is always vital that residents are six feet apart. Depending on the specifications of the facility where this game is played, the facilitator may also choose to provide the players facial masks or other forms of PPE (personal protective equipment).

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## Materials and Equipment

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- Bingo cards for every individual resident; if possible, use disposable cards
- A bingo calling device, either a conventional ball spinner or electronic application
- A set of BINGO calling cards, a whiteboard and marker, or other visual device to keep track of the numbers called
- Hand sanitizer to use between contact with residents
- Prizes to win after “BINGO” is called

## Preparing the Residents

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1. **Ensure that the residents understand the process and current social distancing protocols.** The current recommendation (as of March 31st, 2020) is to remain six feet away from other residents. If all residents remain within the threshold of their rooms, the individual in charge of the game should easily be able to follow the guidelines. Some residents who are used to games taking place in other rooms may be confused or irritated that their routine is interrupted. Be sure that these changes are explained in a kind, rational manner according to the cognitive awareness of each resident.
2. **Pass out bingo cards to every resident participating in the game.** If possible, use disposable, single use cards. If this is not possible, instruct the residents to keep their individual bingo cards in their room to prevent the spread of pathogens.
3. **Ensure that there is a seat for every resident at their doorway.** Depending on the facility, residents may have power scooters and wheelchairs, but some may need to

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borrow a chair from another area in the facility. Lounge chairs are not recommended for this activity.

4. **Understand the needs of every resident before beginning the game.** Some of the residents in the facility may be visually or hearing impaired. There may be hallways that require the assistance of an extra staff member; if this is the case, it is important to know before getting started.

## Playing the Game

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1. **Go over instructions briefly.** Most residents are likely to be well-acquainted with Bingo, but a few may forget between games or need a gentle reminder. This is also a good opportunity to make sure they are the appropriate distance apart.
2. **Set up the game.** This includes handing out the cards, setting up prizes and the bingo calling device used.
3. **Call the first number.** Repeat the number at least twice. Make eye contact with each hearing-impaired resident to ensure that they see the card.
4. **Continue calling numbers until someone has a “BINGO.”**
5. **Offer hand sanitizer to the winning resident.**
6. **Allow the resident to pick a prize.** If possible, hand the resident the prize with clean hands to minimize contact.
7. **Continue playing until every resident has won a prize.** This may be modified due to time constraints or extensions.
8. **End the game and clean up.** Make sure that residents either keep their reusable card to prevent contamination or pick up and dispose of single-use cards.

## Troubleshooting

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- **What if my game is too short?**
  - Consider playing a “cover-all” round where BINGO cannot be called until every space on a card is filled. This is also good if your facility is short on prizes.
- **What if my residents are having trouble keeping up?**
  - Make sure that they have both a visual and auditory reference once the numbers are called. Consider keeping a white board with all numbers called available for reference throughout the entire game.